

Welcome



What's Your Trail Name?

G25070212

with Brandon Wert

July 13-19, 2025

Welcome to What's Your Trail Name: Ghost Ranch Hiking Adventure for Experienced and Aspiring Through Hikers. I'm excited to meet you and spend a week in July together exploring Ghost Ranch and the National Forests to the North (Carson) and South (Santa Fe). Both the low desert of AZ and the high desert of NM have long been soul-scapes for myself and life partner, Jodi.

We intentionally raised our daughters -spending significant time in both places-with the belief that our internal and external landscapes mirror one another and this relationship positively affects our psychological and spiritual well being.

You can expect long strenuous hikes in this course designed specifically for folks who are already conditioned to and prepared for hikes of up to 18 miles over rough terrain with significant elevation gain. Though we plan to arrive at beautiful destinations with spectacular vistas, the preferred mind and heart set for this course will be "The journey is the destination". As I wrote, I anticipate the time and trails we will take together.

If you would like to talk through concerns about preparedness for this intense week, please email me at leftreverend@gmail.com

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Workshop Itinerary:

(Proposed schedule may shift due to changing / challenging weather conditions and staff evaluation of group readiness for each planned hike.)

Sunday: Arrive at Ghost Ranch

Dinner

Eve: Hospitality and course orientation

Monday: The Trifecta

Sunrise: Pre-dawn ascent of Chimney Rock

AM: Box Canyon

PM: Group building exercises

Eve: Night hike to Kitchen Mesa (including a night time decent)

Tuesday: Orphan Meas:

AM/PM: 7.5 mile hike (mix of double track, single track and overland route finding) around a defining feature of the Ghost Ranch landscape.

Wednesday: King's Cove / Abiqui Reservoir

AM/PM: Dining hall to King's Cove via Canjilon Creek / Haden Quarry trail. 6.75 miles 1 way, 13.5 miles round trip to a "hidden" swimming hole.

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We will pack a lunch after breakfast and picnic at the cove. Opportunities to swim / nap on warm sandstone overlooking Abiquiu Lake.

Thursday: Mesa de los Viejos / Rim Vista Trail

AM/PM: 18 mile out and back hike via to one of Georgia O'Keeffe's favorite perches to paint Cerro Pedernal.

Friday: Mountain top experience: Cerro Pedernal

AM/PM: We will drive several miles to the base of Pedernal. This shorter out and back hike of just over 8 miles has approximately 2,000 feet of elevation gain, and a challenging rock scramble to reach the summit. Expect spectacular views of the Piedra Lumbre and Chamma River Valley.

Eve: Final gathering, hospitality and evening reflections

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Supply or materials list:

- Headlamp (for night hike)
- Sturdy walking shoes, close toed footwear is highly recommended.
- Sun hat and sunscreen
- Extra warmth layer (fleece) and rain gear
- Backpack or hydration system sufficient to carry at least 4 liters of water, trail calories and an extra layer of clothing comfortably.
- Whistle
- 5 days worth of your favorite trail calories: power bars, gels, electrolytes etc...